REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending. In this Office Action, Claims 1-2, 5-10 and 12-14 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ramirez Diaz et al (US Pat. No.: 6,476,858, hereinafter "Diaz") and Claims 3-4 and 11 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Diaz in view of Allen et al (US Pat. No.: 5,892,535, hereinafter "Allen").

The Examiner is appreciated for withdrawing the finality of the Office Action dated 10/5/2004. In the foregoing amendments, Claim 1 is amended to further distinguish from the cited references. Reconsideration of Claims 1-14 is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

As amended, Claim 1 recites:

a number of channel interface units respectively coupled to a plurality of
field terminals for transporting video, audio and alarm data in a
surveillance site to a plurality of view stations respectively, <u>wherein the
video and audio data are transported over a network and the alarm data
is transported over a dedicated E1 channel,</u> the field terminals
generate video signals that are respectively digitalized, encoded and
compressed to form the video and audio data, and wherein <u>each of said
channel interface units</u> comprises:
    a) a number of channel transceiver chips to communicate with said
       field terminals, connected to a logic control module through a data
       line and a clock line, for transmitting/receiving signals from a
       channel;
    b) a logic control module including a number of programmable
       devices, a single chip processor and a memory for receiving data
       from said channel transceiver chips through the data line and the
       clock line and transmitting data to said channel transceiver chips,
       moreover, for receiving the data from the bus control module
       through the data line and the address line and transmitting the data
       to the bus control module, wherein said memory is connected to
       said programmable devices for buffering the data received from said
       channel transceiver and the data received from said bus control
       module; and
    c) a bus control module with one end connected to said logic control
       module and another end connected to a computer bus;
an information process kernel including a processor and a software
    module and connected to said channel interface unit by said computer
    bus; and

a number of view station interface units respectively coupled to said
information process kernel by said computer bus to receive the video
and audio data, wherein the video and audio data are decompressed,
decoded and subsequently displayed on the view stations.

(*emphasis added*).

The amended claim 1 clearly recites the following distinct features over the
cited references:

1. signals generated by a field terminal are compressed and encoded;
2. the compressed data including audio and video is transported over a network
    to a view station;
3. the alarm data is formed as E1 frames and transported over a dedicated E1
    channel; and
4. Each of the channel interfaces is for one field terminal.

These four listed features are shown in FIG. 2 and further supported in the
description between line 23 of page 5 and line 1 of page 7. The Applicants wish to
point out that it is known to those skilled in the art that E1 (or E-1) is a European
digital transmission format devised by the ITU-TS and given the name by the
Conference of European Postal and Telecommunication Administration.

In contrast, Diaz shows a computerized video mentoring and security system
based on a standard PC platform. As shown in FIG. 7, each of the cameras is
directly coupled to a PC, for example, cameras 4a-4x are coupled to a PC 1a.
Therefore there is no need to compress the signals generated from these cameras,
which is evidenced by "*Video information from a single camera or from a plurality of
cameras is independently digitized, scaled and displayed on different windows*" (see
lines 44-47 of Col 2 in Diaz). Diaz has taught away from the feature recited in claim
1.

Next Diaz fails to teach or suggest that the alarm is transported in an E1
channel to a view station (i.e., a terminal), instead, Diaz states "*when a trigger event
occurs, digitized camera information is compressed through JPEG compression.
The information is then stored on the computer hard disk in a video database...*"

(see lines 21-26 of Col 3 in Diaz). Again, Diaz teaches away from the claimed invention by performing compression only after a trigger event.

Further, FIG. 7 shows clearly that one VS client (e.g., VS Client 1) is responsible for display signals from cameras 4a-4x, FIG. 8A also shows that a MUX 309 is used and a single chip 301 is for the cameras 4a-4x, which is just opposite to *"wherein each of said channel interface units comprises ..."* recited in amended claim 1.

In summary, Diaz processes signals from the cameras locally and suggests nothing at all that the signals shall be compressed to be transported to another place for monitoring. On the contrary, Diaz transports compressed data only after it is detected that there is a trigger event. Therefore it is reasonable for Diaz to use only one client to serve multiple cameras, which nevertheless teaches away from the claimed invention. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that none of the above listed four features are taught or suggested in Diaz and Allen viewed individually or in combination, and Claim 1 shall be allowable over the cited references. Reconsideration of claims 1-4 is respectfully requested.

Claim 5 is also amended to further distinguish from the cited reference. As amended, Claim 5 recites:

> a number of channel interfaces units, <u>each of the channel interfaces units</u>
>   coupled to a field terminal and receiving data over a data network from the
>   field terminal, wherein each of the channel interfaces units comprises at least
>   a channel transceiver to communicate with the field terminal and buffer the
>   data in a memory, <u>the field terminal produces audio and video analog signals</u>
>   <u>that are respectively digitalized, encoded and compressed to form the data,</u>
>   and wherein <u>the field terminal further produces alarm information that is</u>
>   <u>transported in a separated data channel;</u>
> a network interface coupled to the data network; and
> an information process kernel coupled between the channel interfaces units
>   and the network interface, the information process kernel executing
>   instructions for transporting the data over the data network and the alarm
>   information in the separated data channel, wherein a number of view
>   stations are coupled to the data network to receive the data for display
>   thereon and the alarm information for immediate attention.
>
> (*emphasis added*)

The amended claim 5 also recites that video and audio signals from a field terminal are digitalized, encoded and compressed (suitable for a network, such as an LAN) and the alarm information is transported in a separated data channel. Other limitations in claim 5 can be appreciated that the above arguments to support claim 1 are applicable here to support claim 5.

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that Diaz neither teaches nor suggests the combined features recited in Claim 5, and Claim 5 shall be allowable over Oliver and Allen, viewed individually or in combination. Reconsideration of claims 5-14 is respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicants believe that Claims 1-14 shall be in condition for allowance over the cited references. Early and favorable action is being respectfully solicited.

If there are any issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplementary Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at (408)777-8873.
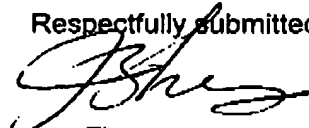
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Respectfully submitted;

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